

**From:** JMS <john@sinrud.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 18, 2011 12:21 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: My Testimony for HB 588 hearing before Transportation Committee

John Sinrud  
Phone: 406-539-9654

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**From:** Jerry Hackett [mailto:cajiggs@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 17, 2011 2:28 PM  
**To:** JMS  
**Subject:** My Testimony for HB 588 hearing before Transportation Committee

Chairman Vance and Committee members

My name is Jerry Hackett, I'm from Harlowton.

I'm asking for your support for HB 588. I'm speaking for myself as a Montana landlord, and I'm speaking to represent the 1150 members of the Montana Landlords Association in my role as VP of the Lewistown /Harlowton Chapter and as a voting member of the statewide MLA Government Affairs Committee.

We are just asking for the cities/water departments to treat us reasonably so that we, as landlords, can know what bills we can expect in a timely manner. This should be mutually beneficial to water utilities and landlords. If landlords know they are liable for water bills before a tenant is gone, those delinquent water bills will be paid more quickly. Landlords do not need to be coerced to pay the tenants delinquent water bill with high disconnect/reconnect fees, as the rental unit cannot be on the rental market without sewer and water service.

Most cities treat us reasonably. Others don't cooperate with landlords at all, and property owners don't find out about delinquent tenants water bills until they get their property tax bills the following year! The city has passed a bill they didn't or couldn't collect to an unsuspecting property owner that now has no way to collect it.

We just want to be treated fairly. Your support for HB 588 will help that happen. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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